

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application, and claims 1-3 and 9-11 stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §102

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,703,960 to Kressin. In particular, the Examiner finds that Kressin discloses all limitations of claim 1, and specifically states that “[t]he pre-selected voltage is provided via a resistor string. Each node of the resistor string is coupled to a respective input of the comparator. The voltage of the nodes to be compared to the input electrical signal is a pre-selected voltage that is derived by programming the first and the second programmable end voltages (212, 214) coupled to the resistor strings (see Fig. 6). The reference voltage is pre-selected based on the comparison of V_{in} and $(V_{max}-V_{min})/2$.” This is all good and well, but Applicants fail to discern where Kressin discloses the claimed **plurality of reference circuits**, each reference circuit coupled to a respective one of the plurality of comparators to supply the respective reference electrical signal to the respective comparator. Kressin clearly discloses a single reference circuit that is comprised of the resistor string (204..210) and the programmable end voltages (212, 214) and that supplies all of the reference signals. The ADC of Kressin is therefore no different from the prior art clearly discussed in Applicants’ specification in that it uses a single circuit and a resistor ladder to generate the reference signals, and thus has all the shortcomings inherent in such designs and which are overcome by the presently claimed invention through the use of a plurality of reference circuits so that each reference signal is generated by its own, dedicated circuit instead of being tapped off a resistor ladder. Applicants respectfully ask the Examiner to review the present claims carefully and pay attention to each and every claimed limitation, which will clearly reveal that Kressin does not in fact anticipate each and every claimed limitation. Applicants submit that claim 1 is thus in fact novel and not anticipated, and respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and pass the claim to issue.

Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1 and, in light of the above discussion of claim 1, Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 are also allowable at least based upon their dependency.

Claim 9 recites, *inter alia*, generating a plurality of predetermined reference electrical signals. Kressin does not teach this feature, but rather generates a single reference signal (the control signal CTRL) which drives the programmable end voltages (212, 214) to run an electrical signal through the resistor ladder from which the individual reference signals are tapped off. It is important to understand that Kressin thus does not *generate* the individual reference signals, as claimed, but rather taps the same signal at different points along the resistor ladder through which the signal is applied. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is likewise novel and not anticipated by Kressin and ask the Examiner to kindly reconsider and pass this claim to issue as well.

Claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9. In view of the above discussion, it is submitted that claim 9 is now allowable, and for this reason claims 10 and 11 are also allowable at least based upon their dependency.

Applicants acknowledge with gratitude the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 4-8 and 12-14. However, in light of the preceding discussion and the amendments made herein, Applicants believes that all claims are allowable.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urge the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

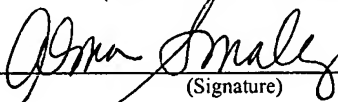
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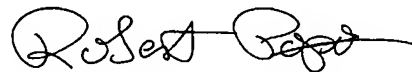


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Respectfully submitted,



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